

REMARKS

Claim 9 has been cosmetically amended. Claims 9 to 14 remain active in the subject application.

Claims 9 to 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ning et al. (U.S. 6,677,635). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that Ning et al. is not available as a reference in the subject application. The filing date of Ning et al. is June 1, 2001 whereas the subject application bears an effective filing date of August 18, 2000. Accordingly, the rejection is without merit.

In view of the above remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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